

her family and the many lives in her community that she has touched.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Janet Saringer, an extraordinary woman and devoted civil servant.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS B. ARCIERO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituent's great service to the United States of America. I ask for the text of this letter to be put in the RECORD. Thomas B. Arciero joined the Suffolk County Police Department on January 21, 1963. Upon his graduation from the Police Academy, he was assigned to the First Precinct as Patrolman #653. In January of 1967, Patrolman Arciero became Detective #322 and was assigned to the First Squad. In October of 1967, he returned to patrol, and shortly thereafter, was promoted to Sergeant #418 on January 5th, 1970 remaining in the First Precinct. He was a Sergeant in the First Precinct for seven years before being promoted to Lieutenant where he remained in the First Precinct.

In 1987, Lieutenant Arciero was transferred to the Marine Bureau. He was promoted to Captain on January 23d, 1989 and was transferred to Special Patrol Bureau as Executive Officer. After seven years, Thomas Arciero was promoted to Deputy Inspector becoming the Commanding Office of the Special Patrol Bureau. He remained there until his promotion to Inspector on February 23, of 2001 at which time he was transferred to the Chief of Patrol's Office in Headquarters, the position he currently holds. As can be seen, Lieutenant Arciero is a man worth many praises and we will be sad to see him retire on February 19th 2002. Thank you for all of your hard work, Thomas. I ask all of my colleagues to join in the acknowledgement of Thomas and his generous service to the state of New York and the United States of America.

MORE INDIAN REPRESSION OF TRIBAL AND CHRISTIAN MINORITIES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn of more Indian repression of its tribal Christian minorities. According to a statement issued by the All India Christian Council, the Sangh Parivari, a wing of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP, has been distributing weapons to Hindu militants in the tribal areas of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

In recent months, according to the statement, it has distributed 350,000 trishuls to be used as weapons. It has set up new temples in Madhya Pradesh. In the Hindu schools, the curriculum already rewrites history. The All India Christian Council calls the curriculum "outside the pale of any academic and public scrutiny" and says it "poisons young minds."

The statement calls this RSS plan "an effort to polarize and communalize the tribal society" in these and several other states. This is a well-established part of India's ongoing campaign to establish itself as the hegemonic power in South Asia.

Given these activities, it is time to strike a blow for freedom by suspending all American aid to India until it respects all human rights for all people and by supporting an internationally-monitored vote on independence for Christian Nagaland, for Punjab, Khalistan, for Kashmir (which it promised in 1948), and for all the other nations seeking their freedom. These are very moderate measures, Mr. Speaker, but they are measures that can go a long way to help promote real freedom and democracy in South Asia.

I would like to place the recent statement from the All India Christian Council into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the All India Christian Council, Jan. 17, 2002]

SANGH PARIVAR ACTIONS COMMUNALISING ADIVASI AREA

(The following is the text of the statement issued by Dr. Joseph D. Souza, President, and Dr. John Dayal, Secretary General, of the All India Christian Council on recent moves by the Sangh Parivar to aggravate the communal situation in the Adivasi tribal belt of North India.)

The All India Christian Council thanks Madhya Pradesh Chief minister Digvijay Singh and his government for taking effective steps to reassure the small Christian community in the Adivasi-majority district of Jhabua, which had seen much tension on the eve of the meeting organized today by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh wing Seva Bharati.

The All India Christian Council deputed its Gujarat unit secretary and well-known Human rights activist Mr. Samson Christian to Jhabua yesterday in solidarity with the Christians of the district, which was scene of the infamous mass rape of Catholic nuns three years ago. A vicious Hindutva communal rhetoric preceded the holding of the Sangh meeting, targeting Christians in the region. Much of the social educational and Medicare work in the Madhya Pradesh Tribal belt has been by Christian missions.

The Council has repeatedly expressed its deep apprehension at the activities of the Sangh Parivar in the contiguous tribal areas of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In recent months, more than 3.5 lakh trishuls machined as weapons and not as innocuous religious symbols, have been distributed in the Rajasthan area. In Madhya Pradesh, the Sangh has announced the setting up of 3.5 lakh Devals, or family temples. These areas are already penetrated by Sangh's Shishu mandirs manned by RSS cadres. These schools follow a curricula and textual material, which is outside the pale of any academic and public scrutiny, blatantly rewrites history, and poisons young minds.

Taken together, these actions constitute a well thought out strategy to polarize and communalise the tribal society in the state of Madhya Pradesh and also in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jharkand and Chhatisgarh to serve the political agenda of the Sangh Parivar. The Adivasis have strongly objected to these efforts to obliterate their culture and their identity.

The Council has called upon the governments of the concerned states, as also on the Central government to ensure that this insidious conspiracy against the Adivasi identity is not allowed to succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to official business on Wednesday, January 23, 2002, and Thursday, January 24, 2002, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 1 on the Quorum Call of the House; rollcall vote 2 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 700, to Reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act; rollcall vote 3 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2234, the Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act; and rollcall vote 4 on Passage of S. 1762, the Higher Education Act Amendments.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "present" on rollcall vote 1, and "aye" on rollcall votes 2, 3, and 4.

COACH BILL BELISLE OF MOUNT SAINT CHARLES ACADEMY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD letters that attest to the true spirit of competition in addition to the sportsmanship of Mr. Bill Belisle of the Mount Saint Charles Academy of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. As these letters show, Mr. Belisle has had astonishing success as head coach of the Mount Saint Charles Mounties, the school's phenomenally successful hockey team. On January 5th, 2002, Coach Belisle earned his 696th career victory, and set a new national high school hockey record for all-time coaching victories. From his 24 consecutive state championships to the multitude of talented hockey players he has developed, Coach Belisle demonstrates the fact that hard work, dedication and commitment to a goal do pay off. I hope that, with this placement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, my colleagues here in the Congress can look to him as a model of the type of success that all Americans should aspire to.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE,

New York, NY, January 22, 2002.

Mr. BILL BELISLE, Hockey Coach,

Mount St. Charles Academy, Logee Street, Woonsocket, RI.

DEAR COACH BELISLE: I am writing to offer my most sincere congratulations on a remarkable achievement.

On January 5, 2002, you earned your 696th victory with the hockey team from Mount St. Charles Academy. The win over Toll Gate High School set a national high school hockey record for all-time career coaching victories. It is even more impressive that you reached this milestone in only your 27th season, while the previous record was set over a career which spanned 49 seasons.

The National Hockey League is pleased to recognize accomplishments, which recently have been highlighted by stories in Parade Magazine and USA Today. The fact that your team has won 24 straight Rhode Island